

**Mid-Atlantic Sustainability Network
Facilitated by U.S. EPA Region 3
2014 Action Plan**

Background:

The Mid-Atlantic Sustainability Network was launched in January, 2010 as a means to promote greater collaboration amongst the sustainability efforts of seven large metropolitan areas in the mid-Atlantic. Membership was later expanded to include additional geographic areas, and current participants include sustainability directors and staff from these local governments and metropolitan planning organizations (MPOs):

Allegheny County, PA	Annapolis, MD	Baltimore, MD	Charlottesville, VA
Norfolk, VA	Philadelphia, PA	Pittsburgh, PA	Richmond, VA
	Washington, DC	Wilmington, DE	
Baltimore Metropolitan Council		Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission	
Hampton Roads Transportation Planning Organization		Lehigh Valley Economic Development Council	
Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments		Richmond Regional Planning District Commission	
Sustainable Pittsburgh		Wilmington Area Planning Council	

EPA Role:

Since organizing the group's kick-off meeting in 2010, EPA has served as the facilitator for the Network. Primarily, EPA has planned quarterly webinars on specific sustainability topics selected by members; identifying speakers, developing agendas and moderating Q&A sessions. In addition, EPA created a LinkedIn networking group, conducted a member survey, and enabled connections between members facing similar sustainability challenges.

Changes to the Network and Goals for 2014:

During 2014, EPA will continue to facilitate the Network. EPA will maintain and share updated contact information for all members, complete logistical tasks related to scheduling of group conference calls and meetings (also providing meeting space), connect members to peers with similar interests, and provide email announcements and updates to the group as appropriate.

However, based on member feedback, topic-specific webinars will be discontinued and the LinkedIn group will be closed.

The focus of the Network will be to:

- Promote regular, informal and helpful information exchange between members
- Provide timely updates on EPA regulatory activities and partnership programs
- Identify opportunities for members with shared interests to work together

Semiannual Network "Exchanges" will take place in April 2014 (via conference call) and October 2014 (in-person, in Philadelphia, if so desired by consensus of the membership). These Exchanges will be interactive forums through which members of various organizational sizes and capacities can meaningfully collaborate toward shared sustainability goals.

EPA strives to enable a dynamic and productive network for the communities of the mid-Atlantic. Feedback, suggestions and ideas are most welcome. Please contact Andrew Kreider at 215-814-3301 or kreider.andrew@epa.gov.